

Sharon Mason
HB 242

EXHIBIT # 9
DATE Jan 25/24
HB 242

As you know, School Board elections are currently held on their own date separate from any other election. This makes it much more difficult for the public to know when the School Board elections are going to take place so they can participate in them. I think we can all agree on how important it is to have as many citizens as possible participating in our election process if we are truly going to have a representative government. I'm not sure how many of you followed the adoption process of the Health Enhancement Curriculum here in Helena last year, but the parents and grandparents of Helena learned firsthand how important it is to have a School Board that represents their educational goals and interests instead of those of the special interest groups like NARAL (National Abortion Rights Action League), the ACLU, and Planned Parenthood. I'm not an accountant but it seems to me that reducing the number of elections in a given year would also reduce the cost involved in holding elections, and in a year when everyone is looking for ways to save money, this might be one of those ways. So on a number of levels it just seems to make good sense to move primary elections to coincide with School Board elections. I urge you to vote yes on HB 242. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.